

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending for examination.

The pre-examination amendments requested herein are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added. If the Examiner should disagree, however, it is respectfully requested that the challenged limitation be pointed out with particularity in the next Action so support may be cited in response.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



William G. Niessen

Reg. No. 29,683

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100